

Applicants STONE, et al.
U.S. Serial No.: 09/614,238
Filed : July 12, 2000
Page : 5

Remarks

Claims 1- 20 remain pending in this application.

By the Proposed Amendment, Applicants amended some claims as suggested by the Examiner to whom this Application has been assigned. Accordingly, there is no issue of new matters and Applicants respectfully request the entry of this Proposed Amendment. Upon entry of this Proposed Amendment, claims 1-20 will be pending and under examination.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

The Examiner rejected 1-4 and 11-14 under 35 U.S.C §102(e).

The Examiner alleged that:

"Claims 1-4 and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(e) as being anticipated by Tang et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,793,395), hereinafter referred to as Tang.

Regarding claim 1, Tang disclosed a method which allows users to chat with each other while displaying live webcam images of more than one selected user within a chatroom environment (Figure 5, Figure 10 sign 121, Column 5 lines 29-32).

Regarding claim 2, Tang disclosed a method in which the webcam images are displayed at the top of the page (Figure 5).

Regarding claim 3, Tang disclosed a method in which the displayed webcam images have a uniform size (Figure 5).

Regarding claim 4, Tang disclosed a method in which the webcam images are automatically assigned a position on the chatroom screen (Figure 5).

Regarding claims 11-14, the system corresponds directly to the method of claims 1-4, and thus these claims are rejected using the same rationale."

Applicants STONE, et al.
U.S. Serial No.: 09/614,238
Filed : July 12, 2000
Page : 6

In response, Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection. Applicants add some limitations on Claims 1-4 and 11-14 based on Examiner's recommendation.

Regarding Claim 2, 3 and 4, Examiner pointed to the Figure 5, while in the Description of the Drawings, Tang only said "an illustration of one chat room with object shelf." without any explanation how they implement to display the webcam images at the top of the page, in an uniform size, and be automatically assigned a position on the chatroom.

Applicants disclosed the method to implement the web images on top of the chatroom page by retrieving the chatter list from the Server, preparing the image by connecting to the Server via TCP, and reading the byte-array for each image. Applicants also disclosed the method to implement the webcam image in a uniform size by calculating scaled height and scaled width. It then uses Java's built-in image-scaling method. As to the webcam images are automatically assigned a position on the chatroom screen, Applicants disclosed a method by calculating screen "real-estate" (size of the window) based on the number of webcam images displayed and the size of each webcam image.

Accordingly, Tang cannot anticipate the claimed invention. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

Applicants STONE, et al.
U.S. Serial No.: 09/614,238
Filed : July 12, 2000
Page : 7

35 U.S.C §103 Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 5-6, 8-10, 15-16, and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as "being unpatentable over Tang as applied above and further in view of the invention's background."

The Examiner stated that:

"Regarding claim 5, Tang disclosed a method which allows users to chat with each other while displaying live webcam images of more than one selected user within a chatroom environment (Figure 5). Tang did not disclose the method in which chatroom users can select the webcam images they want to view while they are chatting. Tang suggested exploration of art and /or provided a reason to modify the method to include a step where users can select the webcam images they want to view while they are chatting (column 2 lines 37-41, column 3 lines 41-46, column 8 lines 3-10). The background of the instant invention disclosed a method to show video [image] of a particular chatter in which a chatroom users want to view (Background page 2 lines 23-24). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to allow chatroom users to select the webcam images of the other chatters in order to have more visual and more personal chatting experience.

Regarding claim 6, the background of the instant application disclosed a method in which each user is given a list of other online users from which they can select webcam images to view (Background page 2 lines 12-18, lines 23-24)

Regarding claim 8, Tang disclosed a method of in which each image is associated with an individual user (Figure 5).

Regarding claim 9, Tang disclosed a method in which users who do not have webcam will have a symbolic logo appear in place of their image (Column 5 lines 32-37).

Regarding claim 10, the background of the instant application disclosed a method in which image of each chatter is updated at a predefined time interval (Background page 1 lines 27-33). The symbolic logo is the image of the chatter when live image of him/her is not available and therefore will be updated at a predefined time interval in the same fashion as his/her live image.

Applicants STONE, et al.
U.S. Serial No.: 09/614,238
Filed : July 12, 2000
Page : 8

Regarding claim 15-16 and 18-20, the system corresponds directly to the method of claims 5-6 and 8-10, and thus these claims are rejected using the same rationale.

Since all the limitations of the claimed invention were disclosed by the combination of Tang and background of the invention, claims 5-6, 8-10, 15-16, and 18-20 are rejected."

In response, Applicants respectfully traverse the above ground of rejection. Applicants have amended claim 1 on which claim 5 depends. Since claim 6 is dependent on claim 5, Claims 8-9 are dependent on claim 5 and claim 10 is dependent on claim 9, they are all similarly amended. Applicants also amended claim 11, therefore, all the depending claims 15-16 and claims 18-20 are similarly amended.

Applicants maintain that Tang alone or in combination with this invention's background do not teach the Applicants' claimed invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

The Examiner rejected claims 7 and 17:

"Claims 7 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang as applied above and further in view of Ullman et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,018,768).

Regarding Claim 7, Tang disclosed a method which allows users to chat with each other while displaying live webcam images of more than one selected user within a chatroom environment (Figure 5). Tang did not disclose a method in which a list of URLs from each user's personal webcam is requested and organized. However, in analogous art, Ullman disclosed a method in which URLs from a video source... is requested, added to the list, and organized for viewing. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include a method to request and organize the URL from each chatter webcam image in order to enable chatters to view live image of other chatters. Requesting URLs or other video stream locators will allow live image of chatters to be located. Organizing URLs will help

Applicants STONE, et al.
U.S. Serial No.: 09/614,238
Filed : July 12, 2000
Page : 9

maintain a chatter profile and correctly associate a particular chatter with his/her image as disclosed by Tang.

Regarding claim 17, the system corresponds directly to the method of claim 7 and is rejected using the same rationale."

In response but without conceding the correctness of the Examiner's position, Applicants have hereinabove canceled claims 7 and 17 without prejudice, thereby rendering this ground of rejection moot.

CONCLUSION

In summary, Applicants believe that all grounds of rejections and/or objections were raised in the February 26, 2004 Final Office Action has been addressed, and therefore this application is in full compliance with all requirements. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully urge the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw all objections/rejections in the February 26, 2004 Final Office Action and place this application in conditions for allowance.

Applicants STONE, et al.
U.S. Serial No.: 09/614,238
Filed : July 12, 2000
Page : 10

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below.

No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Proposed Amendment. However, if any additional fee is required, authorization is given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 50-1891.

Respectfully submitted,

Albert Wai-Kit Chan

Albert Wai-Kit Chan
Registration No. 36,479
Attorney for Applicants
Law Offices of
Albert Wai-Kit Chan, LLC
World Plaza, Suite 604
141-07 20th Avenue
Whitestone, New York 11357
Tel: (718) 357-8836
Fax: (718) 357-8615
E-mail: kitchanlaw@aol.com